



October 15, 2013

President Barack Obama
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20500

Dear President Obama,

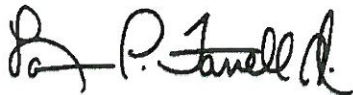
On behalf of the Aerospace Industries Association, the National Defense Industrial Association and the companies that comprise the aerospace and defense industries, we urge all parties to find a solution to address our nation's fiscal challenges. As we continue a shutdown of our federal government and fast approach the deadline to raise the debt ceiling, it is essential that these problems along with the sequester quickly be addressed to avoid a national security and public safety deficit.

We fully recognize that the debt and deficit are pressing issues which need to be resolved. Sequestration is also pressing and its elimination must be part of the solution. All cuts to date have come from the discretionary accounts including the core functions of national security, public safety and investments in research and development and infrastructure. Sequestration has come to pass and is causing irreparable harm to both government and the private sector. Only seven months have passed since sequestration was triggered, but we are already seeing substantial negative national security and economic impacts. In a survey conducted in May and June, AIA found that 88 percent of small and medium sized companies in the aerospace and defense industrial supply chain are experiencing adverse impacts and layoffs. While potential future adversaries continue to invest in research and infrastructure, our nation is cutting back – risking the innovation leadership that has made our nation second to none.

As we enter the third week of the government shutdown and approach a breach of the debt ceiling, there is no apparent solution that both the Administration and Congress have found acceptable. Without resolution of this situation, the impacts on the economy, private industry and most of all, the American people, will continue to be severe.

We urge you to find a compromise that will end sequestration, lift the debt ceiling and provide a path that will lead to regular appropriations bills for the remainder of the fiscal year. As Americans, our national security and economy depend on the certainty and predictability that can only come from a long term solution to ensure our nation's financial health. The time to act is now.

Sincerely,



Lawrence P. Farrell Jr.
Lt. General, USAF (Ret.)
President and CEO
National Defense Industrial Association



Marion C. Blakey
President and CEO
Aerospace Industries Association



The Honorable Sean O'Keefe
Chairman
National Defense Industrial Association
Chairman and CEO, EADS North America



Wes Bush
AIA Chairman
President and CEO
Northrop Grumman Corporation



Arnold Punaro
Maj. General, USMC (Ret.)
Vice Chairman
National Defense Industrial Association



Michael Strianese,
AIA Vice Chairman
President and CEO
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